

As the season began, few seers in the sports world could have foretold the indelible mark this team would leave behind. The adversity these young men faced would have folded a team of lesser character. Their stalwart manager Joe Torre began the year in a hospital room rather than in the dugout as he battled prostate cancer. Teammates Paul O'Neill, Luis Sojo, and Scott Brosius all lost their fathers during the past season. In addition, the Yankee family was struck by the passing of baseball legends, Joe DiMaggio and Jim "Catfish" Hunter. Yet this team endured and reached its goal, giving New York an unfathomable 25th World Championship.

For the past two seasons—and three of the last four—we have seen the Yankees go to the World Series. They emerged victorious after the minimum of four straight wins on both occasions. Starting pitchers David Cone, Orlando Hernandez, and Roger Clemens held the Braves to a meager six hits and two runs in 21½ innings. Reliever Mariano Rivera had saves in Games One and Two and won Game Three on his way to becoming the Series Most Valuable Player. Offensively, the team had Derek Jeter and Chuck Knoblauch getting on base, and Chad Curtis came off the bench to hit two home runs in Game Three, with the second coming in the bottom of the 10th, sealing the victory for the Bronx Bombers.

All in all, this team put forth admirable effort coupled with unmatched talent. This victory is a truly epochal moment that brings joy to the hearts of Yankee fans everywhere. An editorial appearing in today's New York Times puts it best, "We are all fans now." In closing I would like to offer a possible slogan for next year's team: Thrice would be nice.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the editorial be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Oct. 29, 1999]

#### THE YANKEES WIN

Maturity in sports has many looks, but right now it looks like the New York Yankees, who won their 25th World Series last night against the Atlanta Braves. Clearly, the Yankees were able to dominate the Braves, whom they swept, but just as clearly they were able to dominate themselves and their own fortunes. Patience is a word that has been much used around the Yankees dugout this season, and what it means is a privileged manner of looking at baseball. What this team seems to see is not a game where one event cascades into another as the innings slip by, the past steadily commanding the present. To this team baseball looks like a game of constant renewal, with each pitch, each batter, each defensive out.

Baseball is, if anything, too rich in the grand themes, especially during a World Series. You expect television to turn grandeur into grandiosity, and it does. But a kind of triumphalism thrives at Yankee Stadium too, where the World Series pregame soundtrack included the theme from "Star Wars" and the "1812 Overture." But that mood is

meant for the fans, not the players. There is a difference between destiny and opportunity, and the 1999 Yankees know it. They will take opportunity every time, and in this Series, take it they have.

It is easy, in the high-wattage glare of a Series game, to lose sight of the fact that baseball, even at Yankee Stadium, can still have a pleasantly smalltown feel to it. Kofi Annan, mayor of the world if not the city, throws out the first pitch in New York, which bounces halfway to the plate. Marching bands from South Jersey assemble on the warning track—the outfield grass remaining inviolate—and play "Gimme Some Lovin'" and "Louie, Louie." The notes of all the instruments, except the base drums, gust away into the evening, just as they would at a local homecoming game. Hand-lettered signs rise in the stands—"Dripping Springs, Texas, Loves the Yankees"—and the stadium sparkles with camera flashes going off, snapshots of a vortex where a batter steps up to the plate.

The fans roar with emphatic, if imprecise, knowledge. They call balls and strikes from a mile away. The air is barbed with advice, with schoolyard taunts, and then with the exultation of the moment. The emotion so latent in the players, so overt in the fans, gives way at the final out, and at last, in the rejoicing, there is no distinction between players and fans. We are all fans now.

#### PRESIDENT'S VETO OF THE FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, a lack of leadership from the administration is responsible for the present difficulty in reaching an agreement on the foreign operations appropriations bill. The President says he vetoed the bill over low levels of foreign assistance in general and a lack of funding for the Wye Accord specifically. The Administration did not exert the leadership needed to secure the Wye funding, however, and did not work with Congress to find a way to provide this critical assistance to Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians without raiding the Social Security surplus. I am a strong supporter of funding the Wye Accord if the money can be found without using Social Security surplus funds. The President should make Wye funding the priority it should be and find the money somewhere in the budget.

The lack of leadership from the administration in providing for our allies and interests in the Middle East already has had real costs, however. The President's veto of the foreign operation appropriations bill on October 18, 1999 sends a disturbing signal that our foreign policy is being held hostage to the domestic budget politics of the administration. While the President's veto was the wrong step for U.S. foreign policy around the world, the administration's rejection of the bill is particularly troubling for U.S. policy in the Middle East and strategic allies such as Israel.

The foreign operations bill passed by Congress contains \$960 million in economic assistance and \$1.9 billion in military assistance for Israel. The for-

eign operations bill also contains over \$2 billion in assistance to Egypt and \$225 million in aid to Jordan, both important countries in the peace process. The provision of such assistance to Israel is critically important at this juncture of the peace process, and it troubles me that the administration did not lay the groundwork for an acceptable foreign assistance package. The government of Prime Minister Ehud Barak has stated its intention to complete final status negotiations within one year. Many difficult issues must be resolved for a final settlement to be reached. Jerusalem, refugees, and water rights are just several of the monumental issues that will be topic of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

It is my hope that the administration will support Israel more forcefully during these negotiations, including a clear statement of U.S. policy that Jerusalem is and should remain Israel's undivided capital. As final status negotiations proceed, the United States should defend Israel against diplomatic ambushes in international fora such as the United Nations. An unequivocal U.S. position in support of Israel in the coming months will be essential to achieve a sustainable peace settlement.

Also at stake is a potential peace settlement with Syria. I trust that Prime Minister Barak will not make territorial concessions in the Golan Heights that will jeopardize Israel's security. As a former military chief of staff, Prime Minister Barak is well aware of the security implications associated with relinquishing territory in the Golan. Any Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights should be met with the most reliable assurances from Syria that its hostility toward Israel and support for terrorism will cease. For the peace to be sustainable, however, and Israel-Syrian settlement will have to be based on more than words. Israel will have to be able to defend itself, and continued provision of annual U.S. military assistance is an integral part of that process.

With all that is at stake right now in the peace process, it is difficult for me to understand why the administration has not worked closely with Congress to ensure that vital assistance is provided to Israel in a timely fashion. Mr. President, it is my hope that the administration will demonstrate better leadership in supporting Israel as the peace process enters this critical year.

#### HIGH SPEED RAIL INVESTMENT ACT

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, let me begin by congratulating Senator LAUTENBERG for developing this important piece of legislation that recognizes the importance of rail in our overall transportation system as we approach the 21st century.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the High Speed Rail Investment Act, which will provide Amtrak with